

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

January 7, 2022



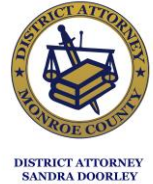
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Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Happy New Year!

The end of the year brought restructuring to the District Attorney's Office with new hires and promotions. Each promotion was well deserved and I am excited to have fresh leadership here in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

*Our Major Felony Bureau, or Violent Felony Bureau, is being led by **Matthew Schwartz**. Assistant District Attorney Schwartz has previously led the Special Investigations Bureau for the past ten years and has prosecuted many homicides and complicated cases. This position opened up after our newly elected Judge Hahn left to start her time serving on the bench. The Major Felony Bureau has two deputies, Assistant District Attorney **Michael Harrigan** and Assistant District Attorney **Christopher Bokelman**. Also joining the Major Felony Bureau is Assistant District Attorney **Michael Caranante**.*

*One of our busiest bureaus, especially with the gun crime we are seeing, is our Special Investigations Bureau. With ADA Schwartz's promotion, Assistant District Attorney **Robin Catalano** was promoted from Deputy Bureau Chief to Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau. Assistant District Attorney **Jennifer Hyatt** was promoted to Deputy Chief of the bureau as well. Both of these women are very experienced attorneys who are experts on long-term investigations and gun crime in our community.*

*Assistant District Attorney **Patrick Gallagher** took over as Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau last year after the departure of long-time prosecutor William Gargan. Assistant District Attorney **Rachel Clark** was promoted from an Assistant District Attorney with the Major Felony Bureau to the Deputy Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau. Both Pat and Rachel have spent many years working with victims of Domestic Violence and have prosecuted many homicides. The Domestic Violence Bureau is in good hands.*



Homicide Update

So far in 2022:

City of Rochester Total: 1

Monroe County Total: 1

*At the end of the year, our Appeals Bureau lost its Chief and Special Counsel to law clerk positions at the Hall of Justice. While I am sad to have lost both of these skilled attorneys, I have complete confidence that newly promoted Chief, **Scott Myles** and Assistant District Attorney **Lisa Gray** as Special Counsel will lead our Appeals Bureau successfully. We also have two senior attorneys joining this bureau, please welcome newly hired **Marty McCarthy** and **Meredith Smith** as our newest Assistant District Attorneys in this bureau starting on Monday!*

*Our specialized Public Corruption/Economic Crime Bureau is also receiving a new hire, former Assistant District Attorney **Karina Pinch** is returning to the office and her previous bureau. We are lucky to have her! This Bureau is still being led by Chief **Michael Bezer**.*

*The Felony DWI Bureau will continue under the leadership of the very capable Bureau Chief **Ray Benitez**, with the addition of Assistant District Attorney **Francis Strazzeri**. Fran left the office years ago to join the private sector and we are elated to have him back.*

*The Local Courts Bureau remains under the direction of Bureau Chief **Elizabeth Buckley** with the addition of Deputy Bureau Chief **Monica O'Brien**. Assistant District Attorney O'Brien has been the Elder Abuse Bureau Chief for years and will do great work helping to train our newest Assistant District Attorneys. Also added to this bureau as full-time Assistant District Attorneys are **Armanda Benitez**, **Jason Espenosa**, **Ryan Mulcahy** and **Jena Boise**.*

*Our Special Victims Unit remains the same under the leadership of Bureau Chief **Sara Vanstrydonck** and Deputy Bureau Chief **Amanda Balling** and our Grand Jury Bureau continues to be led by Bureau Chief **Michelle Crowley**.*

I am very pleased with the trajectory of our District Attorney's Office, we will continue to do great work. Each promotion was well deserved and I know these dedicated public servants will continue their great work for the residents of this community.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

Deante Phillips was indicted on Assault in the 2nd Degree and Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree for causing serious physical injury to a woman on July 6, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

On December 27, 2021, **Jasmine Huggins**, **James Torrance**, **Angel Phiri**, **Lorenzo Terry** and **Ronnie Spirles** were indicted on three counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree and three counts of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the 2nd Degree. Lorenzo Terry was also indicted on an additional count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree and Criminal possession of a Controlled Substance in the 4th Degree. These charges are in relation to a fentanyl bust on July 9, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

On Tuesday, December 28, 2021, a Monroe County Grand Jury indictment was unsealed, charging **Charles Holley** with Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree in relation to the shooting death of Devon Wilburn on March 24, 2021. Following the unsealing of the indictment, Charles Holley was arraigned in front of Monroe County Court Judge Meredith Vacca. Charles Holley is being held No Bail, No Release with the potential of a future bail application. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Dys, Chief of the Non-Violent Felony Bureau.

James Barkely was indicted on Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree in relation to illegal weapon possessions on December 22, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Hyatt, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Pedro Miranda was indicted Strangulation in the 2nd Degree and Assault in the 3rd Degree in relation to the assault of a woman on September 18, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

Chayla Marquez was indicted on Burglary in the 2nd Degree in relation to the unlawful entering of a dwelling in the Town of Gates on July 5, 2021. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Karen Chung, of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

MCDA in the News

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/crime/rochester-man-charged-with-murder-for-march-fatal-shooting/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/man-indicted-in-rochester-murder>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdny/pr/justice-department-awards-more-10-million-support-criminal-justice-initiatives-western>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/rochester-police-probe-2022s-first-homicide>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/01/06/julius-greer-jr-shot-and-killed-rochester-ny-father-speaks-out/9110263002/>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/public-safety/2022/01/04/mayor-evans-addresses-city-s--pandemic-of-violence---will-hold-virtual-teen-town-hall-tuesday>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/03/25/man-shot-to-death-dewey-avenue-rochester-ny-violence-murders-2021/6994103002/>



WE'RE HIRING

We are hiring attorneys! If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.